

THE SUN, SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1879.

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Announcements

Beverly's Lyceum Theater—Colored Minstrels—Marine, Kastor & Stat's Garden—Circus—Madison Square Garden—Garden.

Is the Country Going to Destruction?

It would seem that it is. We are assured by various political journals that if Mr. TILDEN is elected, that will be the end of the republic. The same thing is said of other Democratic candidates. We do not think it is true. We believe the election of any Democrat who can possibly be elected will be entirely compatible with the safety of the country.

So we think if Gen. BUTLER were elected by the Republicans, inasmuch as he is a sincere patriot, the country would not be greatly injured by his administration. So also it could survive four years under Mr. CONKLING, more especially Mr. FURNIVAL, CONKLING—Mr. BLAINE or Mr. JOHN STONE MAN.

We hold to a very different doctrine about the possible election of Gen. GRANT to a third term. If that should take place all the early and patriotic traditions of a limited term of office for the President would be overthrown.

But GRANT is not, and we think never will be, elected to a third term. We do not think our own glorious country is on the road to destruction.

Memphis.

The news from Memphis does not grow more encouraging. New cases of yellow fever are reported; the doctors are advising the departure of all who can get out of town; every train that leaves carries its quota of fugitives; business is practically suspended; the alarm is spreading to the neighboring river towns.

It is still possible that the fever may not become epidemic in Memphis. Even if it should do so, a rigid quarantine and thoroughgoing sanitary precautions may save other threatened cities. But while it is permitted to hope for the best, it is none too early to face the worst. If this is to be a yellow fever season in the Southwest, Northern succor will be needed even more urgently than it was last year. One or two newspapers in that section have expressed or hinted the opinion that it will not be affected. They are mistaken.

The Freedman's Bank—An Answer to Many Anxious Inquirers.

We have lately received a large number of letters from colored depositors in the Freedman's Bank. The victims of that cruel swindle are naturally impatient to learn what progress has been made in winding up the snarl left by the Christian statesmen and the Washington Ring. They want to know whether there is any prospect of securing anything from the ruins for the benefit of those who have lost so much, or of recovering any part of the plundered assets. A new investigating committee was appointed by Congress a short time ago. The question most frequently asked of us now is: What will Senator BIRCHER be able to do for the depositors?

When Senator BIRCHER proposed an investigation of the bank at the late session, the Democrats responded promptly to his request, and gave him an excellent committee—he as Chairman—with a clerk, an accountant, messenger, and all the accessories to do the work efficiently. It was supposed that Senator BIRCHER would begin the inquiry without delay, and procure such legislation forthwith as is needed to save the remaining assets of the plundered bank from being consumed in salaries and unnecessary expenses.

The path had been blazed by two previous investigations, which showed very clearly how much of the savings of the poor freedmen had been received and stolen; how many hundreds of thousands had gone into the pockets of the Washington Ring and their confederates; and how much the philanthropists, like Gen. HOWARD, who were deeply concerned for the fate of the "old brother," had profited by the bankruptcy which they promoted.

Senator BIRCHER, therefore, had only to take up the new inquiry where the others had stopped, and to go over any points that were not sufficiently clear in the former examinations. His main work would have to be directed to the operations of the Commissioners, who for five years past have been professedly winding up the affairs of the Freedman's Bank, with a salary of three thousand dollars a year each, taken from the assets of the concern.

The first step in the interest of the freedmen depositors was to cut off the regular expense of keeping up this costly Committee, which absorbs a large part of the remaining resources, and of course takes no money away from any dividend that may be declared. It could easily have been turned over to the War or Treasury Department, as the Freedman's Bureau was to the former, when Gen. VANDERBILT brought out of intentional chaos, and exposed the outrages that had been practiced by stealing the bounties of colored soldiers, and other frauds not less criminal.

Mr. BIRCHER does not seem to have discovered the importance of this first step, by which a very considerable saving would be made for the needy victims of the villainy. Any day in the three months of the extra session it would have been quite practicable to pass a bill from this committee on behalf of the freedmen. The Republicans would not have dared to show the teeth of opposition, and the Democrats stood ready, for many reasons, to yield the floor to a measure of relief, no matter what form it might take.

This opportunity was lost, and with it probably a whole year, for although Congress will meet in December, legislation will hardly begin in earnest before the opening of the new year. Meantime, the investigation progresses at a snail's pace, and the Committee is not represented at Washington in the person of any of its members, while the Chairman from a distance sounds a note of warning of what he intends to do when once fairly started.

The SUN urged long ago that the Commission be abolished. It was then and is now a burning scandal, and little more than a legalized plunder of the depositors, who are daily disappearing by death, sickness, distress, and other causes, until many thousands of them cannot be found at all. Two out of the three Commissioners do not pretend to take any interest in the business, and pay the third Commissioner five hundred dollars a year from their salaries to do duties which they swore to perform.

They hold disgraceful sinecures—disgraceful because they take six thousand dollars a year from the little that is left of the broken bank in which the deluded colored people were induced to place their savings. Pevins, one of these two Commissioners, is a colored man, and the other is familiarly known as CHOPINNING CRESWELL, from his

connection with the odious CHOPINNING claim while Postmaster-General under GRANT. The Commissioners have pocketed ten thousand dollars each without rendering any service worthy of the name. It certainly is high time that this bare-faced plunder should be stopped.

Signs of Revolution in Italy.

The investigation which followed PASSANI's assumption on the life of the King of Italy not only disclosed the most widespread discontent among the artisans and rural cultivators of the peninsula, but showed how largely it was justified. There is no longer any doubt that the political structure of that country is undermined by forces scarcely less explosive than those which have lately shattered the crust of Etna. In some of its aspects the Italian Constitution has passed for a model of liberality; yet in no part of Christian Europe to the west of the Visalia is the mass of the population so destitute, and so galled by unequal burdens into revolt.

It is now nineteen years since the kingdom of Italy was founded, yet scarcely an effort has been made to improve the condition of the Italian masses. The successive Ministers have displayed activity enough in the interests of a limited constituency; they have abolished estates in mortmain, reorganized the whole system of inheritance, extended scientific instruction, opened everywhere roads, railways, and canals. But all these measures have served only to increase wealth among the well to do; they have in no wise helped the great majority who live by manual labor and from hand to mouth. Indeed, the welfare of the non-propertied class has never been contemplated, for they are but shadows in the Italian commonwealth. The proportion of the people invested with the right of suffrage is extraordinarily small, and can be compared with nothing but the state of things in England before the first Reform bill. The so-called Parliament represents only those who are in comfortable circumstances, and thus the government of the peninsula, while constitutional in form, has exhibited the temper of a plutocracy. It has furnished an impressive proof of the fact that while the dispossessed may, now and then, meet with succor from the ministers of an absolute monarch, like the Prussian reformers, HADENBURG and STRAUSS, privileged persons, as a body, will consult the interest of their power to avert a revolution, as the English Parliament has twice extended the franchise; but while they monopolize it they will use it, designedly or instinctively, to their own advantage.

She therefore comes to the United States with such a horrid as her actress before her ever had, not even RACHEL, and both factions circumstanced and her incestuous bilious genius will assure her an extremely successful career here. When RACHEL came to America a century and a half ago, the majority of the people who thronged to see her were unfamiliar with the language she spoke, and the enjoyment of her performances, it will be remembered, was seriously marred by the simultaneous turning of the leaves of the translations of the French plays she enacted. Even during the storm of the present there was such a rustling among the audience at times as reminded one of the effects of a tempest in a forest.

But this was a minor annoyance; and though RACHEL got here the seeds of death, she also carried away heaps of Yankee dollars, and left behind her an improved taste in the dramatic art. Miss BERNHARDT will find now a public as familiar as that of London itself with the language she speaks, and hardly less familiar with the French stage, the great school of modern acting; and it will be one more tolerant of her whims and caprices than that of the English capital, for more patient audiences tolerate her to a much greater extent unless she is observed.

The career of a bank robber has its downs as well as its ups. The Manhattan Bank robbery was cleverly planned and neatly executed, but John HORNIGORF goes to State prison for twenty years.

A press despatch of yesterday, from San Francisco, announced the impending abdication of that youthful Emperor of China, and is confirmatory of the statement which recently appeared in THE SUN to the effect that the Emperor, belonging to the same generation as his predecessor on the throne, is unable to withstand the pressure of aristocracy. It was the democratic Convention which will decide up

the reasonable thinking man, and, if it is not magnified by a few foolish words. He meant to say one thing and another. It is what the rhetoricians call hot-headopathy."

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part of the talk improved an early opportunity to review this estimate of Mr. Dorsheimer's character. "Hot-headopathy be damned," he said.

"The snobs are always coling some new words under which to hide their sins. I don't know what rhetoricians call Dorsheimer's talk, but I know what Democrats call it—they call it treason to their party. It wasn't a remark made in the heat of debate. It was a deliberate idea, coolly written out, printed, and committed to memory. No man can escape the responsibility for such an utterance, unless it be on the ground that he is a fool. It is not the first time that a politician has wrecked his prospects on the shoals of silly speech. Winfield Scott was drowned in his hasty plate of words. Tom Corwin—though he had been a good soldier—was disgraced by his Presidential respects when he expressed the hope that the Mexican would welcome his troops "with bloody hands to hospitable graves," and other men worse than he.

It is but fair to the Alaska Indians to state that "bootheaven" is not a product of native ingenuity. It was introduced among the Indians by soldiers belonging to the command of Gen. O. HOWARD, somewhat well known as a friend of the freedmen, and as the man who did not capture the Nez Perces.

The Alaska Indians are represented to be a quiet, peaceful race, except when with a vicious temper. Inflammable tempers are not prevalent, but when they are, they are likely to vent themselves with the greatest violence. From such a source it is not to be wondered that the Indians are in comfortable circumstances, and thus the government of the peninsula, while constitutional in form, has exhibited the temper of a plutocracy. It has furnished an impressive proof of the fact that while the dispossessed may, now and then, meet with succor from the ministers of an absolute monarch, like the Prussian reformers, HADENBURG and STRAUSS, privileged persons, as a body, will consult the interest of their power to avert a revolution, as the English Parliament has twice extended the franchise; but while they monopolize it they will use it, designedly or instinctively, to their own advantage.

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Such as at all events, has been the case in Italy. It has lately been affirmed by the Italian Government that the victims of the Ruggessa Settimanale, a journal of moderate opinions, and conspicuous for devotion to the house of Savoy, that not only relatively but absolutely the bulk of the Italian population has lost rather than gained under the present government. It is not merely that opportunities of ameliorating the lot of the burden-bearers have been let slip, as in the disposition of the lands sequestered from the Church. In France, under analogous circumstances, means were taken to distribute such estates among a multitude of peasant proprietors, and something like what was recently done in Ireland on the disestablishment of the Anglican Church.

To the other hand, the chance of giving the proletarian a stake in the country was thrown away, and the large areas

of land itself with their families and their possessions were taken away, and attached the planters. The robbers then fled.

Here is the case of CHARLINE COX.

If ever a man deserved hanging he deserves it.

What is the worst feature of his crime?

When he had a woman wholly in his power he treated her cruelly and destroyed her life.

But then he is as powerless as a woman in the hands of the law, and while he is thus powerless the law takes him in hand and strangles him to death.

Good enough for him. Hanging is too good for him.

Such are the exhortations of ungenerous man. Clergymen generally go further, and seem to believe there is no offering more acceptable to the Almighty than the life of a homicide.

Cox presents himself to us as a most detestable and loathsome creature. If ever any one deserved to be hanged we think he deserves to be hanged.

But is it Christian to hang any one?

This is a question which deeply concerns human souls—the soul of the condemned; the soul of the executioner; the souls of the people all of whom are immortal.

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pecuniary profit to the eccentric Jewess; "She is to travel for two years," says that journal, "all expenses are to be paid, and she is to receive \$80,000." A woman might be far less fond of money than she, and yet yield to the temptation of so magnificent an offer. It is indeed an enormous sum, if it is truly stated, and to earn it the actress will have to work hard during her two years' tour, and not disappoint her audiences, as she did one in London lately on a notable occasion, on the plan of illness. Even if she did not guarantee as much as \$40,000, she certainly does not come within being sure of a great pile of money; and when actors here of the very highest class get half of the gross receipts of their performances, Miss BERNHARDT will need to be assured a heavy sum to equal their gains.

For unquestionably she will exceed every theatre in which she acts, and be a main topic of conversation during her stay. She is a woman who is very modern in the sense of knowing how to advertise herself, to enthrall public interest in her doings and her personality, not only on the stage, but off it also. Like a politician who knows that the saddest thing which can happen to him is not to be talked about, and a vendor of wares who understands that he must let his name and business be forgotten, the French actress instinctively keeps herself on exhibition by the aid of every art she possesses, is always posing for public admiration, and is never content unless she is observed.

She therefore comes to the United States with such a horrid as her actress before her ever had, not even RACHEL, and both factions circumstanced and her incestuous bilious genius will assure her an extremely successful career here. When RACHEL came to America a century and a half ago, the majority of the people who thronged to see her were unfamiliar with the language she spoke, and the enjoyment of her performances, it will be remembered, was seriously marred by the simultaneous turning of the leaves of the translations of the French plays she enacted. Even during the storm of the present there was such a rustling among the audience at times as reminded one of the effects of a tempest in a forest.

In the light of the Seabright blaze, other villages hereabout may see the advisability of investing in a fire engine.

We have got into the habit of thinking and speaking of the trifles the Atlantic as merely a prolonged East River ferry trip—more tedious, indeed, but not much, if any, more adventurous. Thus has familiarity with ocean travel lulled the spirit of adventure. But the great deep is still the great deep, and the proudest and the proudest of us all are not immune to its terrors.

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